

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00229 212240Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /058 W
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P 212030Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1019
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
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UNCLAS QUEBEC 0229

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: PARTI QUEBECOIS BESEIGED BY DUMP TRUCKERS

1. HUNDREDS OF DUMP TRUCKS JAMMED CENTER OF QUEBEC CITY TODAY FROM ALL OVER PROVINCE TO PROTEST CHANGE IN GOQ REGULATIONS CONCERNING OWNER-DRIVEN TRUCKS. (CAMIONNEURS-ARTISANS) PREVIOUSLY, OWNER-DRIVERS HAD ENJOYED SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGE OF BEING ASSURED 75 PERCENT OF ALL ROAD CONSTRUCTION HAULING IN PROVINCE. UNDER RECENT REVISION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS, SPECIAL CATEGORY OF OWNER-DRIVER WOULD BE ABOLISHED AND PERMITS FOR DUMP-TRUCK OPERATIONS WOULD BE ISSUED WITHOUT DISTINCTION TO SMALL CONTRACTORS AS WELL AS TO DRIVER OWNERS. CAMIONNEURS ESTIMATE THAT THEY WILL LOSE ABOUT 37.5 PERCENT OF THEIR INCOME AS RESULT OF LOSS OF PRIVILEGED CATEGORY.

2. DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION NOW TAKING PLACE IN CENTER OF CAPITAL CITY WITH ABANDONED DUMP TRUCKS BLOCKING ALL STREETS FOR ABOUT A MILE AROUND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, LUCIEN LESSARD, WITH BACKING OF CABINET, HAS REFUSED TO KNUCKLE UNDER TO COERCIVE TACTICS OF HARD HEADED TRUCK OWNERS. HE IS INSISTING ON REGULATION REMAINING UNCHANGED. LESSARD MAKES UNCONVINCING CLAIM THAT COMIONNEURS WILL NOT LOSE AND GOQ WILL GAIN BY SAVINGS TO BE ENJOYED FROM GREATER COMPETITION.

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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00229 212240Z

3. COMMENT: THIS IS PQ'S FIRST REAL TEST OF WILLS WITH DETERMINED ADVERSARY. DEGREE OF DETERMINATION AND NEGOTIATING SKILL DISPLAYED BY PQ IN THIS CONFRONTATION MAY SET TONE FOR FUTURE. NO DOUBT OTHER DISSATISFIED GROUPS WILL BE WATCHING FOR SIGNS OF GOVERNMENTAL WEAKNESS. SHOULD GOQ BACKDOWN IN FACE OF THIS CHALLENGE, OTHER GROUPS MAY BE TEMPTED EMPLOY SIMILAR CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS

AND BRIEF PERIOD OF RELATIVE SOCIAL PEACE ENJOYED SINCE
PQ ELECTION COULD END. ON OTHER HAND, GOQ MUST CONSIDER LONG
TERM POLITICAL DAMAGE WHICH COULD RESULT FROM ALIENATION OF SOME
3000 TOUGH, HIGHLY INDIVIDUALISTIC OWNER-DRIVERS SPREAD
THROUGHOUT PROVINCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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